

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, June 17. 1710.

AND now what we fear'd is come upon us, say some People, that are more than ordinarily Alarm'd at the prospect of Alterations at Court; and that View brought nearer by the late particular of removing my L... S-----d from the Office of Secretary of State.

For my Part, tho' my View of the Approaching Mischiefs a desperate Party will bring upon the Nation, is as Melancholy as any Man's, and my own Share in the Ravages they shall make upon our Liberties, is like to be as severe as any Man's, from the Rage and Fury of a Party, who are in themselves Implacable, and whom God has not been pleas'd to Bless me with

a Talent to Flatter and Submit to; yet I cannot be so cast down at the Prospect of our Civil Strife, as to give up a Cause which God himself has not yet given up. However, the Folly, the Divisions, the selfish Principles, the Pride, and the Secrecy of the Party that have had it to Defend, has brought this all upon them.

The Game was all in their own Hands. It was in their Power to have Crush'd the Party, and to have kept them where they were, *viz.* Undermost for ever; had they thought fit to have used that Power for the just purposes for which it was Entrusted with them: But their Day is over; and when Men or Nations are in Danger, God's Providence seldom offers them two Opportunities,

tunities for their Deliverance, when they are pleas'd to slip and neglect One. *Non licet in Bello bis Pescare.* The Day is gone, and the Enemy is broke in like a Flood— And like a Flood they will Ravage all before them——If they have no Interruption, any Body knows, who knows the Party, what we are to expect from them, viz. to have Liberty, Claims of Right, Revolution, Succession, Union, Toleration, all troden under Foot. Parliamentary Limitation and *English* Constitution overthrown, Hereditary Right Voted Sacred, and then comes the Pretender, for his alone is the Hereditary Title, if he be Legitimate——And who dare RESIST? There's the Use, and indeed the true Intent and Meaning of the Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*——*They that will shut their Eyes, let them remain Blind.*

But before I go on with these Things, let me say a word or two to the Ministry, who are such a Grievance to the Party, and which they Boast shall be all Dismiss'd.

'Tis the Honour of the Espousers of the Nations Liberties, that as many of them as are employ'd by her Majesty, in any Branch of the Administration, have distinguish'd themselves from all that over went before them, not only in Zeal for the Service of their Prince, and right Judgment of her Interest, by which they have rais'd their Sovereigns Glory abroad, and fixt her Majesty in the Hearts and Affections of her Subjects at Home—— But have done it from such disinterested and hearty Principles, that we neither hear of their Oppressions among the People, nor find any of their Misapplications, Neglects, or Mistakes in the mouths of their worst Enemies.

It is no for me to enquire, or for anybody to dispute, why, or for what reasons, her Majesty is pleas'd at any time to change Hands in her Royal Administration, or to remove her Servants—— Hitherto her Majesty has shewn her great Judgment and Wisdom in the Choice of the wisest Men for her Counsellors and Servants——and almost every Remove has been for better—— May it still be so, say I, without the

least suggesting whether it is likely to be so or no.

But pray, Gentlemen, you that please your selves with the view of general Changes in the Administration, and that boast they shall all go out after this manner—— Let me speak a word to you upon the Merit of Parties——I shall not be suspected of Flattery, because you say they are going Out; and when Men Flatter, 'tis generally the rising, not the falling Party.

1. Here is a noble Person remov'd—— No matter why, or by what Councils, that's none of my Business. But where's the Objection against his Conduct? Who comes in now, and Charges him with the least Corruption in his Office, Neglect of Business, Infidelity to his Mistress or his Country?——Not a Dog of the Party can Bark at him; indeed they have long Grin'd, and shew'd the Teeth of Envy; But not one has a Hand to lift up, or a Word to say. But with Joy—— *The same Foy Knaves always shew when out of the Aw of an honest Man,* they Hugg themselves, and Flatter their Cause of Success, FOR, we have got him out at last.
2. There are several noble Persons yet not remov'd, at whom the Spleen of the Party are as violently bent as at him that is out——But where's the Charge? Where is the Complaint——Where the Treasure misapply'd? Where the Law inverted and perverted? Where the Authority Committed to them Oppressively Executed——If a Party by the Fate of a Nation, and in just Judgment to the Abuse of Liberty, does prevail to Dismiss them—— It will for ever be said of them, that a better and a more just Body of Counsellors, never Prince in this Nation displac'd. God grant her Majesty, if ever she is prevail'd with to Change them, may find better to succeed. I shall descend to farther Particulars in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

OUR People have been Asking in Trade, just as a certain Party are now Asking in the State—— I mean in the Affair of the *Trade to Africa*—— They are pulling down the Company to gratify private Interests, and carry on private Prospects of Advantage; *not at all weighing*, whether what they are doing will not be Fatal to the general Interest, Safety and Prosperity of the Nation's Commerce.

I could run the Parallel here a great way, but it is none of my Business—— Only let us take a View of a few Heads. *As Removing the publick Ministry* would be a blow to National Credit, and an Interruption to our prospects of Peace, especially while we have no View of the Probity or Capacity of those that shall come after; and People are just now perplexing themselves upon those Articles—— So Heaving and Thrusting, *as I call it*, perpetual Alarming the Nation with these Removes, cannot but do some Harm in those Cases; at least they are far from making our publick Credit Advance, or our Allies Depend the more heartily upon us—— Or in short, from Advancing our general Interest in the World. Nor do the Views of an unsettled Posture in our Court, our Ministry, or Councils, contribute any thing to the Discouraging our Enemies.

In like manner a Party of Men Annually pushing at the *African-Company*, bringing the Parliament to the very Brink of Overthrowing them, and yet giving us no Views of any future Settlement, no probable Scheme to Build a future Trade upon, no solid Foundation upon which the Columns to support the Commerce can be fix'd. No Man can Wonder that this shocks the Company, renders their Establishment precarious, undermines their Credit, disables them from doing what they see proper, and would otherwise be able to do, *viz.* to pay the just Claim of Creditors, and support the Trade.

And here lyes the View I have of the Loss of this Flourishing Trade. And in this I think the separate Traders are neither just to the Nation in general, nor to the Creditors of the *African Company* in particular; and I may say more especially *Unjust to the last*, I mean the Creditors; for certainly the Company, *but for these Attacks of the separate Traders*, had been able long ago to have offer'd such Conditions to their Creditors, by opening their Books to them, by letting them into such Advantages with them, as should have been Equivalent to Payment; or else in Time, by Trading, or by New Settlements to have paid them. What has render'd all Proposals for New Settlements Abortive? What has broke all the proposed Coalitions and Conjunctions between Bonds and Stocks? What has Stopp'd their Trade, and their Payments? But the continual Embarrassments of a declar'd War, between the separate Traders, and the Company.

In this War, *as in all publick Swife*, Property falls to the Ground, just Regard to innocent Creditors has had no Weight—— The carrying on the Trade, the supplying the Plantations with Negroes, the defending the Settlements in *Africa* against the Enemy, the supporting the Factories there, *these have been no part of the Concern*: But the Trade has been left to Languish. The general Good that attends it to the Nation, utterly Disregarded; And the Company, like a Wounded Man in the Hands of an unskilful Surgeon, Dies in the Operation.

'Tis in vain to say to these People, that we are *not Arguing for the Company*, but for the Trade—— 'Tis so Evident the Trade cannot be carried on without a Company; and they have said hitherto so little to satisfy the Nation that it can be otherwise—— That really, *tho' I am loth to say positively honest Men* (which I hope some of them are) have such a wicked Design, yet it looks as if these Gentlemen saw the Destruction

Struction of the Trade was the way to raise their private Fortunes; that it might be, perhaps, a few Years a Sinking, and they would Enrich themselves out of the Shipwreck.


But above all the Parts of the Management in this Contention, Methinks the Treatment of the Creditors of the *African-Company* has been the Hardest: And 'tis for these I am speaking at this time; since not only no regard has been had to preserving the Property, and Estate of the Company, *that the best of it might be made for their Payments*, but secret Methods have been made use of to make some of these Creditors turn *Felo de-se* upon themselves, and, set their Hands to pull down that Building that must as they stand, fall upon their own Heads; and they, *I mean in their Capacity of Creditors*, be Buried in the Ruins of the Company. And all this, when a little Consideration, a little Consulting their own Interest, would have preserv'd the whole, and put the Effects of the Company in such a posture, as would have pro-

cur'd, and still may procure full Payment to them all.

To me this seems plainly to signify, that there must be some, who acting in a separate Capacity, both as Creditors and separate Traders, were willing to Sacrifice their Interest at the first to the Project of the last.

These are indeed Views without Doors, and I profess to be so little concern'd in the Debate, That I solemnly declare, I have not so much as Discours'd with one Man in the World, either of the Company, or not of the Company, for them or against them, upon this Subject. Yet I perswade my self, it might be very easie to tell the Creditors, wherein this divided Management of theirs has assisted their Enemies, to render their Debts desperate. And how they might yet, in spite of all the Opposition of others, if their Eyes are but open, make their whole Debt good, and save a great many Families from Ruin. But this is their Business, not mine.

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